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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,134	09/29/2003	Ronald P. Sansone	F-722	2499

7590

01/13/2006

Pitney Bowes Inc.
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EXAMINER

BASS, JON M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3639

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/674,134	SANSONE RONALD	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jon Bass	3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the communication filed on September 29, 2003. Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1-10 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Michael Critelli et al (2003/0093389), referred to as Critelli in further view of Flavio Manduley (2004/0098354), herein after referenced as Manduley.

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(1)(1) and § 706.02(1)(2).

As Per Claim 1:

Critelli further discloses:

The claim stating: A method for paying a carrier located in a second country for mail that has been deposited and paid for by a sender to a first carrier located in a first country to be

delivered by a second carrier located in a second country to a recipient located in the second country, comprising the steps of, {abstract}, calculating dues by obtaining fee information from mail that is sent internationally]:

Critelli doesn't explicitly disclose:

The claim stating: charging a sender's meter for mail that is being deposited with a first carrier;

The claim stating: transmitting the funds charged to the meter to a meter data center;

The claim stating: transmitting from the meter data center to a first carrier meter payment center the funds attributable to the first and second carriers; and

The claim stating: transmitting from the first meter payment data center to the second meter payment data center the funds attributable to the second carrier.

Manduley discloses on page 1, 0006, **The claim stating:** charging a sender's meter for mail that is being deposited with a first carrier, [that postal accounting at the data center], which deals with the funds transactions]. Manduley discloses on page 1, 006 that **The claim stating:** transmitting the funds charged to the meter to a meter data center, [that postal accounting at the data center]. Maduley also discloses on page 2,0010, that **The claim stating:** transmitting from the meter data

center to a first carrier meter payment center the funds attributable to the first and second carriers, [allows funds to be transferred from data center to device]. In addition Manduley discloses on page 2,0010, that **The claim stating:** transmitting from the first meter payment data center to the second meter payment data center the funds attributable to the second carrier, [first meter to second meter so that funds can be transferred]. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to modify the method Critelli et al and include transmitting payment from first meter to second meter as taught by Manduley so that the meter is able to transmit payment though the meter (0010).

As Per Claims 2 and 4:

Critelli further discloses:

The claim stating: wherein the funds attributable to the first country carrier are determined by the following steps:

The claim stating: determining the size of the mail and the cost associated therewith, [{pg.3, claim 9}, decide the size, calculate the amount (cost) of monies];

The claim stating: determining the class of the mail and the cost associated therewith, [{pg.1, 0014}, different types of mail, i.e. first class, second class mail]; and

The claim stating: determining the weight of the mail and the cost associated therewith, [{pg.1, 0003}, determine the weight of mail].

As Per Claims 3 and 5:

Critelli further discloses:

The claim stating: further including the step of determining the special services requested and the cost associated therewith, [{pg.1, 0003}, provide different services for different types of mail].

As Per Claim 6:

Critelli further discloses:

The claim stating: scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country; and

The claim stating: scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country, whereby funds are transferred from the first meter payment data center to the second country meter payment data center when mail is scanned in the second country.

As Per Claim 7:

Critelli further discloses:

The claim stating: further including the step of: placing a unique identification code on the mail to uniquely identify the mail, [{pg.1, 0012}, bar-code contains the mailers account].

As Per Claim 8:

Critelli further discloses:

The claim stating: further including the step of: placing a unique identification number on the mail to uniquely identify the mail, [{pg.1, 0012}, bar-code contains the mailers account].

As Per Claim 9:

Critelli further discloses:

The claim stating: scanning the mail when the mail leaves the first country, [{pg.2, 0019}, the mail will be scanned during the last sorting];

The claim stating: scanning the mail when the mail arrives in the second country, [{pg.2, 0019}, the mail will be scanned];
and

The claim stating: notifying the sender when the mail arrives in the second country, [{abstract}, delivering the mail

have been paid by mailer].

As Per Claim 10:

Critelli further discloses:

The claim stating: delivering the mail to the recipient, [{abstract}, delivering the mail have been paid by mailer];

The claim stating: notifying the sender of the recipient's receipt of the mail, [{abstract}, reporting (notifying) all fees being paid to all participants].

Conclusion

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm Monday through Friday**. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-8300**.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at **(571) 272-6708**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval

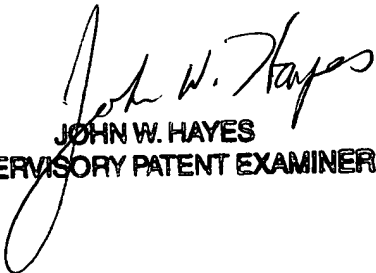
(PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-271-9197 (toll free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

C/O Technology Center 3600

Washington, D.C. 20231


JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

